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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, XT, SHUM, AR, UY

SUBJECT: EC MEETING: LATIN AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
REF: THE HAGUE 3420 (NOTAL)

1. DUTCH, WHO WILL ASSUME EC PRESIDENCY, ADVISED EMBASSY HAGUE OF TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR JULY 1-2 EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING. INTER ALIA, HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, CHILE AND URUGUAY WILL BE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING DESIRABILITY OF EC DEMARCHE IN MONTEVIDEO.

2. DEPARTMENT PLEASED THAT EC WILL FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN LATIN AMERICA. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED, HOWEVER, THAT URUGUAY MAY BE SINGLED OUT FOR DEMARCHE WHEN SITUATION IN ARGENTINA APPEARS MORE PRESSING. EC GOVERNMENTS ARE NO DOUBT AWARE OF MASS ARRESTS, DISAPPEARANCES AND MURDERS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ARGENTINA SINCE MARCH 24 COUP. BOTH ARGENTINES AND FOREIGN REFUGEES (MOSTLY CHILEANS AND URUGUAYANS) HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED. UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAS SOUGHT TO ASSURE SAFETY OF REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA, PENDING THEIR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE. BOTH DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES HAVE RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WITH HIGH-LEVEL ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. EC DEMARCHE TO NEW ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WOULD SERVE TO REINFORCE ALREADY VOICED HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS OF UNHCR AND US GOVERNMENT.

3. EMBASSY HAGUE SHOULD BRING DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DUTCH IN THEIR EC PRESIDENCY ROLE, INCLUDING SUGGESTION THAT EC MAKE DEMARCHE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUENOS AIRES.

4. FOR THE HAGUE AND INFO ADDRESSEES: WHERE OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION OF EC HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE ARISES WITH EC REPRESENTATIVES AND IN MEMBER STATE CAPITALS (PARTICULARLY LONDON, PARIS, BONN AND ROME) US OFFICIALS MAY WISH TO NOTE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION IN LOW KEY FASHION:

US POSITS AS MATTER OF BASIC POLICY THAT NATIONS WITH FIRM COMMITMENT TO PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD ACT IN CON-

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CERT TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS. INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS HAVE BEEN CREATED WITH SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF BRINGING FORCE OF WORLD OPINION TO BEAR ON SERIOUS DEVIATIONS FROM SUCH STANDARDS AND, TO BE EFFECTIVE THESE MUST BE USED IN OBJECTIVE AND CONSISTENT MANNER. WE CONSIDER IT UNFORTUNATE THAT IN 1976 UNHRC SESSION NONE OF THE NINE MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED THERE (UK, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY) WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT CALLS BY US AND AUSTRIA FOR FORMAL COMMISSION STUDY OF DOCUMENTED ALLEGATIONS WITH RESPECT BRAZIL OR PROPOSAL BY CANADA CALLING FOR MORE DETAILED GOO REPORT ON SITUATION; THESE NATIONS THEN ABSTAINED ON SUCCESSFUL URUGAYAN (REPEAT URUGUAYAN) MOTION FOR NO FURTHER ACTION. SIMILARLY, THEY EXPRESSED NO ENTHUSIASM FOR RESPECTIVE US AND CANADIAN SUGGESTIONS THAT CHARGES AGAINST UGANDA MERITED COMMISSION STUDY OR FURTHER UGANDAN GOVERNMENT REPORT. RELUCTANCE TO EMPLOY THOSE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY WORLD COMMUNITY EXPRESSLY TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS ACROSS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES TENDS TO WEAKEN THE MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, CASTS SOME DOUBT ON REAL DEPTH OF GOVERNMENTAL CONCERN AND -- AS PUBLIC PRESSURES FOR ACTION INTENSIFY -- MAY BE FACTOR LEADING TO EVENTUAL RECOURSE TO LESS APPROPRIATE FORA FOR RAISING HR ISSUES. KISSINGER

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